

## 28<sup>th</sup> District Open House

Creating opportunities for open dialog is an important step in maintaining government transparency. That's why I held my annual legislative town hall in Steilacoom this year, had multiple brown bag lunches with constituents in Olympia and hosted numerous legislative tours and discussions throughout the session. By utilizing new technologies such as telephone and internet town halls, I have worked to choose the most cost-effective routes to keeping you informed about what I'm working on in Olympia. These new ways of communicating have not only saved the state money, but also provided the opportunity for you to share input and ask questions from the comfort of your own home. With a myriad of issues to tackle in the 28th Legislative District, it's important for me to hear from you.

As we look forward, there is much to discuss. I'd like to invite you to join me for a 28th District open house. Please bring your questions, comments and concerns regarding the 28th District and the Washington State Legislature. I look forward to seeing you soon.

**What:** A meet and greet at the 28th District open house.

**When:** Tuesday, May 25th from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm.

**Where:** 28th Legislative District Office - 7406 27th St W, Suite 207, University Place, WA 98466



28<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT

TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

## 2010 • Session Report

Representing citizens of DuPont, Fircrest, University Place, Lakewood, Steilacoom, Tillicum, West Tacoma, and Anderson, Ketron and McNeil Islands.



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Dear Friends & Neighbors,

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to represent you and the 28th Legislative District in Olympia. Your continued support and feedback helps me address issues that are most important to you. With the close of the 2010 legislative session, my colleagues and I were undoubtedly presented with new challenges and a heavy strain. Here are some of the major issues discussed during the 2010 session:

- I was the prime sponsor of legislation to improve public safety by eliminating the practice of booking bail, which I'll explain in more detail later. I also championed legislation to provide survivor benefits for the spouses of police and firefighters killed in the line of duty. In addition, I am leading the way toward better oversight over the Interstate Offender Compact.
- In spite of the economy, fiscal responsibilities must stay intact regardless of the financial difficulties we face. The Legislature passed a balanced budget in 2010, funding schools, public safety and social services.
- The Legislature has taken major steps toward a smart recovery by approving legislation to create jobs in every corner of the state.
- I have continued to sponsor and vote for legislation to support veterans and their families.

As I continue to represent the 28th Legislative District, I will do my best to always consider your views in every decision I make in Olympia. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or suggestions regarding the 28th Legislative District and issues relating to the Washington State Legislature. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

*Troy X. Kelley*

Troy Kelley  
State Representative, 28th District



## Keeping our Families Safe

Recent tragedies in our law enforcement community put a spotlight on the gaps in our justice system. It also indicated that more needed to be done to provide our law enforcement community and our judicial system with the tools they need to protect and serve. Criminals were falling through the cracks – and Washingtonians and our law enforcement officers were in harm's way. Major steps were taken this session to keep our families and individuals safe while also protecting those who put their lives on the line to ensure that safety.



*When gang violence marred this spot in the summer of 2006, Rep. Kelley worked to help secure funding to turn this historic location with great views into a safe, park-like setting by 2009.*

## Improving the Bail Process

In an effort to limit the number of dangerous offenders roaming our streets, I sponsored legislation this session to improve the way bail is administered in Washington. Some counties in our state practice booking bail, which is based on a bail schedule and doesn't take into consideration prior convictions or other circumstances. This is the same practice that was in place when Lakewood shooter Maurice Clemmons was allowed to post bail without seeing a judge. I'm proud to report that it will be a requirement to obtain a judge's approval of bail for the release of a person arrested and detained for a felony offense. Courts will also be provided with additional guidance on what conditions to consider prior to allowing the release of a person charged with an offense.

## Amending the State Constitution Regarding Bail Restrictions

In November, voters will have the opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment that would give judges the right to deny bail to suspects who are charged with a crime punishable by the possibility of life in prison. The State Constitution only permitted judges to deny bail in capital offenses, such as premeditated murders. This would be a step in restricting release of suspects determined to be an immediate and severe threat to the public.

## Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision

When the Lakewood officers were killed by a felon sent here from Arkansas, it was a call-to-action to restructure our current participation in the Interstate Compact. My research revealed that the number of offenders Washington imports is nearly three times the amount we export. This means that we are incurring additional costs for those offenders, as well as an increased threat to our safety. That's why I introduced legislation this session to address these disproportionate numbers and take a closer look at our state's involvement in the Interstate Compact that allows the exchange of parolees between Washington and other states. Now, steps are in place to require the Department of Corrections (DOC) to assess the cost and feasibility of establishing a memorandum of understanding with states from which Washington State receives the highest number of offenders for supervision. Washington lawmakers are then required to provide a solution to any inequitable distribution of costs, benefits and obligation affecting Washington under the Interstate Compact and report to the Legislature. I will continue to work closely with the DOC, law enforcement, legislators and stakeholders to improve oversight on the Interstate Compact to better ensure the safety of our community.

## Paving the way for new jobs

One of the best ways to rebuild our economy is by putting people back to work. As a small business owner, I believe we must continue to take steps to improve our business climate and make smart investments that will lead to jobs now and down the road. In order to ensure the future success of our state's economy we must provide long-term solutions and position our state to bounce back from this global economic crisis sooner and better.

One of the most notable job-creating measures approved this session was a bill to create more than 30,000 jobs in every corner of the state by retrofitting education

facilities. These are family wage jobs that put people back to work by improving the energy efficiency of schools and other public buildings, saving taxpayers approximately \$130 million a year in energy costs. This also addresses the need to revitalize the construction industry, which has been one of the hardest hit industries during this recession. Steps were also taken this session to create a tax exemption to incentivize high-tech companies to build the next generation of data centers here in Washington. This means more than 3,000 new jobs and income for areas hit hard by the economic downturn.

## Supporting our Veterans

Education has always been a top priority of mine, which is why I have previously sponsored legislation to authorize our state's community colleges and universities to waive all or a portion of tuition and fees for eligible veterans or National Guard members. In addition, many veterans own small businesses, which are being challenged by these tough economic times. That's why I also supported a bill this past session to encourage state contracts with veteran-owned businesses. I will continue to support our veterans and work to increase veteran access to state programs and services. Honoring our servicemen and women requires more than words; it takes action.

I am honored to represent one of the most diverse districts in Washington, especially one that is home to so many brave servicemen and women. As an active member of the US Army Reserve, I've witnessed firsthand some of the sacrifices that these individuals endure on a daily basis. These men and women must be treated with the respect and dignity they deserve when they are deployed and when they return home.



*C-17 transports sit on the tarmac at McChord Air Force Base. Joint Base Lewis-McChord is a central part of our community and our state.*